

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02911 150945Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----103300 150946Z /17

P R 150929Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 971
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH

S E C R E T KUWAIT 2911

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, IZ, AF
SUBJECT: IRAQI DILEMMA IN THE HORN

REF: STATE 119870

1. WHILE KUWAITIS HAVE NOT PUBLICLY COMMENTED ON CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ERITREA, WE KNOW GOK POLICY MAKERS ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE IN HORN OF AFRICA. COUP IN KABUL HAS BEEN TAKEN HERE AS FURTHER PROOF OF THESIS KUWAITIS AND SAUDIS HAVE SPELLED OUT TO US THAT GULF REGION IS THREATENED BY RADICAL AND SOVIET ADVANCES, AREA-WIDE.

2. WE SUSPECT KUWAITIS ARE ALREADY AWARE OF IRAQI CONCERNS AS DISCUSSED REFTTEL. WHETHER IT IS A SUBJECT EITHER SIDE WILL RAISE ON THE MARGIN OF BILATERAL TALKS (ON BORDER AND RELATED MATTERS) TO START HERE TOMORROW, WE CANNOT SAY. I VERY MUCH DOUBT OUR URGING KUWAITIS TO RAISE IT WOULD BE TAKEN AS ANYTHING BUT GRATUITOUS ADVICE FROM A PARTY KUWAITIS VIEW AS NOT HAVING TAKEN THE PROBLEM OF CUBANS IN ERITREA SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUSLY UP TO NOW.

3. ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT KUWAITIS ARE NOT AWARE OF
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IRAQI SELF-DOUBTS ABOUT THEIR ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE HORN, I PROPOSE TO MENTION IT IN CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION OF NAM MATTERS WITH RESPONSIBLE MFA OFFICER. THIS INFORMATION, IF NEW, COULD HAVE EFFECT OF OVERCOMING ANY KUWAITI RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH IRAQIS.
SUTHERLAND

SECRET

NNN

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